

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14189 250938Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-05 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-14 OC-06
CCO-00 /120 W

-----048604 250944Z /10

O R 250927Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7637
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS LONDON 14189

WASHDC BRUSSELS PASS FAA
DEPT. PASS OTHER APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, UK
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PAGE 02 LONDON 14189 250938Z

SUBJECT: SITREP ON UK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STRIKE NO. 5

REF: LONDON 14142

1. TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROLLERS HAVE BROKEN DOWN; THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT
THERE WILL BE FURTHER TALKS BEFORE THE NOW EXTREMELY

PROBABLE COMMENCEMENT OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSISTANTS' STRIKE AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT (AUGUST 25).

2. AFTER WAITING ALL DAY FOR EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY BOOTH'S SUMMONS TO A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, THE UNION REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH HIM (AND CAA REPRESENTATIVES) JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT AUGUST 24. THE SESSION WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF. BOOTH, WHO HAD SPENT THE DAY CONSULTING WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (AND EVIDENTLY ALSO WITH TUC LEADERS) SAID HE HAD NO NEW OFFER TO MAKE. HE REPEATED THAT THE CONTROLLER ASSISTANTS' DEMANDS VIOLATED THE GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY. HE APPEALED TO THEM TO "THINK AGAIN." IN A LATER INTERVIEW, BOOTH SAID HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET THE ASSISTANTS' TO IDENTIFY CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD FALL WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY AND WHICH WOULD ALLEVIATE THOUGH NOT ELIMINATE THEIR GRIEVANCES.

3. THE CONTROLLERS ASSISTANTS' UNION REJECTED BOOTH'S APPEAL. THE UNION SAYS THAT ONLY AGREEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE UNION'S DEMANDS CAN NOW AVERT A STRIKE. THERE IS NO SIGN OF SUCH A CAPITULATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

4. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL TALKS THERE IS INEVITABLE RECRIMINATION, WITH THE UNION SUGGESTING THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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IF THE TALKS HAD BEGUN A WEEK AGO THEY MIGHT HAVE LED TO A SETTLEMENT. BOOTH SAYS HE "REJECTS COMPLETELY ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF ANY ALLEGATION THAT WE'VE BEEN SLOW OR LAGGARDLY." IN A RADIO INTERVIEW HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CASE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PAY POLICY, AND CONTRASTED THIS WITH THE "INCONVENIENCE" A STRIKE WOULD CAUSE TRAVELERS.

5. IRONICALLY, LAST NIGHT THE MAIN BRITISH AIRPORTS HAD THEIR BEST NIGHT OF THE PAST WEEK, GETTING OFF MOST OR ALL FLIGHTS. THIS MORNING AIRLINES ARE ISSUING DIVERSE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THEIR PLANS FOR THE DAY. BRITISH AIRWAYS ANNOUNCED, BEFORE 8 A.M., A NUMBER OF CANCELLATIONS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE FLIGHT TO THE US. TWA, IN CONTRAST, ASKED TRAVELERS TO REPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS, THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE DELAYS. AS OF YESTERDAY, AIRLINES HAD STILL NOT REACHED A COLLECTIVE DECISION ON SCHEDULE REDUCTIONS.

STREATOR

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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